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16 July 2008

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
C/O California Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: 916-653-8102  
Email: [MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov)

Attention: Melissa Miller-Henson

Re: Nomination of Benjamin E. Beede for the South Coast Regional Stakeholder  
Group to represent kelp harvesters and aquaculture.

Contact information:

Benjamin E. Beede  
THE CULTURED ABALONE  
9580 Dos Pueblos Canyon Rd.  
Goleta, CA 93117

Office: (805) 685-1956  
Fax: (805) 685-5757

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

I have been asked by the industry to represent the abalone aquaculture and  
associated kelp harvesting interests through the South Coast Region MLPA  
process, and Ray Fields of The Abalone Farm has been asked to

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serve as alternate.

Given my selection as the representative of these stakeholder groups I look forward to working with others to contribute to the establishment of Marine Life Protected Areas for the Southern California Region. I am able to set aside the time necessary to fully represent the interests of the aquaculture and kelp stakeholder groups, and look forward to working collaboratively with others to establish what we would believe to be the most successful array of MLPAs.

For your consideration, the following is a review of my past work relative to this position:

I obtained my degree at UC Santa Barbara in Environmental Biology and have worked spawning, hatching and rearing abalone since 1978 first as a student, then as an employee in an aquaculture firm, and research lab at UC Santa Barbara, and now as General Manager and Limited Partner in THE CULTURED ABALONE an aquaculture facility in the Santa Barbara area, the largest abalone facility south of Point Conception.

I have worked extensively with dive groups, aquaculture groups, researchers and governmental agencies. In particular from 1978 to 1980 I was the hatchery manager and primary coordinator for the Santa Barbara Mariculture Foundation, an association of recreational and commercial abalone divers with a focus of enhancing abalone populations in the wild. We were successful in planting abalone in the waters off Santa Rosa Island, and along the Santa Barbara mainland. In the mid-1990s I chaired the Abalone Sabellid Worm Committee, interacting with fellow abalone aquaculturists, researchers, Aquaculture Disease Committee and the Department of Fish and Game to determine methods of control and eradication of an exotic polychaete from abalone farms throughout the state, as well as aquaria, research facilities, and state waters where the organism had escaped. This included the co-authorship of the Sea Grant publication "Identification and Management of the Exotic Sabellid Pest in California Cultured Abalone."

I was also selected to represent the abalone aquaculture industry on the initial Abalone Recovery Management Team that was formed by the Department of Fish and Game after the closure of the commercial fishery in 1997. The final product of the team was a set of recommendations that led to the establishment of the Abalone Recovery Management Plan.

I have been a member of the California Aquaculture Association for over two decades, and stay informed on issues relating to aquaculture in the state. Access to their newsletter, as well as mailing list gives me the ability to communicate

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throughout the aquaculture industry and specifically with my fellow abalone cultivators. The Department of Fish and Game maintains a Kelp Harvesters Licensing program from which I should be able to obtain contact information for those kelp harvesters that are not farming abalone.

While I was not directly involved in the Central Coast Region Stakeholders Group, our company interacted with Ray Fields and Art Seavey who were the representative and alternate for abalone aquaculture and kelp harvester interests. During this time I was included on the MLPA email list and became familiar with issues and concerns that developed during the process of developing MLPAs in the Central Coast Region.

As mentioned earlier I am aware of the time required for this position and I am able to commit to this level of participation. I am able to supply references from the aquaculture industry, the research community and/or the Department of Fish and Game should you desire.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Benjamin E. Beede